



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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V CORPS OFFICIALS EXPAND PROGRAM DESIGNED TO USE SOLDIERS' FEEDBACK TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS

HEIDELBERG, Germany — V Corps safety experts want Soldiers' input on developing programs and methods to keep them safe. To help "open the lines of communication" to troops, safety officials have added telephone and e-mail "hotlines" to a relatively new program that encourages Soldiers to speak their minds about accident prevention in their units.

The initiative, called V Corps Accident Reduction Emphasis, or CARE, is aimed at improving existing safety policies and programs by getting young Soldiers and family members to



share their thoughts and ideas about how their units can help keep them safe on and off duty.

CARE, managed by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Petty of the corps' safety office, lets Soldiers and leaders tell safety experts openly and directly how they can help prevent accidents. While the program has focused heavily on reducing vehicle accidents, safety officials plan to address other safety topics in future sessions.

The core of CARE is roundtable discussions in which Soldiers look at real accident scenarios and then discuss why each accident happened and how it might have been prevented. The scenarios illustrate what safety officials say are the major causes of vehicle accidents – speed, fatigue and alcohol – and give the troops at the roundtable an opportunity to see and discuss how “safer choices” in those scenarios could change their outcome. The sessions also allow Soldiers to provide input on how leaders can best identify “at-risk Soldiers” and mitigate associated risk factors, as well as offering leadership tools to change Soldier and unit attitudes for the better.

Because younger Soldiers represent the highest risk group for accidents, lower enlisted troops normally make up the discussion groups. But other focused roundtable sessions may be scheduled, safety officials said, to open the discussion to other segments of the corps population. However, each session is limited to a specific group – say, lower enlisted troops or senior NCOs -- to allow the participants to feel they can speak candidly.

Petty is also instituting some additions to the program, to both allow for broader participation and share the outcome of suggestions received through CARE.

Two “hotlines” have been set up to allow V Corps Soldiers and family members who are not participants in the program’s roundtable sessions to share their views about accident prevention, identify “at-risk Soldiers” and hazards within their units, and make suggestions for improvement.

Soldiers can call the CARE telephone "hotline" at 370-6827 or 06221-57-6827 and leave a recorded message with their comments. Petty said every caller will get a response from a safety official within 72 hours.

The second hotline allows Soldiers to send their comments and concerns to CARE by e-mail, to CARE@hq.c5.army.mil .

In addition, Petty said, he has begun producing "CARE-GRAMs" to share the program's discussions and their outcome. CARE-GRAMs will be posted on a special web page, as well as released to American Forces Network broadcast outlets and Army community newspapers throughout Germany. The content of CARE-GRAMs is based on Soldier perceptions, Soldier recommendations and the information and leadership tools safety officials can provide to leaders to help them to positively change Soldier and unit perceptions and actions.

To learn more about the CARE program, read CARE-GRAMs and reach the program's "hotlines," visit the CARE web page by going to the V Corps home page at www.vcorps.army.mil and clicking on the CARE logo.

